

Assessment for English Learners

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What formal assessments must an EL take?

- The English Language Proficiency (ELPA) which is currently the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA);
- Math and science TCAP Achievement

Scores may be exempt for AYP calculation if:

- ✓ Designated as limited English proficient on intake instrument (TELPA),
- ✓ Identified on Home Language Survey as exposed to language other than English, and
- ✓ Attended a U.S. school for less than 12 months (365 days).
- ✓ Bubble “ELL Excluded”



Formal Assessments con't.

- Exempt from Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies of TCAP if attended a U.S. school for less than 12 months (365 days). Bubble “ELL Excluded.”
- All portions of TCAP after the first year in U.S. school. Bubble “ELL”
- School tests the district feels are necessary;
- Any End of Course (EOC) or Gateway test that is tied to a course in which the EL is enrolled; and
- TCAP Writing Assessment in 5th, 8th and 11th grade.



Allowable EL Accommodations

- Any accommodations that s/he would otherwise receive
- Small group administration
- Bilingual dictionary if s/he has been using one throughout the school year
- Read aloud of assessment instructions in large or small group administration
- Read aloud of test items and responses for all tests except reading/language arts
- Time and a half for timed tests
- English Linguistically Simplified Assessment (ELSA)



What is newly approved?

- Prompting when needed
- Accommodations for transition students (T1 and T2)
- Fat pencil if needed




What can I not do?

- Indicate answers
- Use an electronic translator
- Use devices that connect to the internet
- Explain the question: in other words
- Break your confidentiality code



Other assessments

- ACT, PLAN, EXPLORE - no accommodations except approved by Educational Testing Service
- PSAT - not required or recommended for active Els, no accommodations
- Local district testing: Aimsweb, DIBELS . . .
- Native language testing



Formative Assessments Vs Formative Instructional Practices




Special Education Services

- What is Response to Intervention?
- Is it good for ELs?
- What are the strengths?



Testing ELs for SPED

- Cannot be procrastinated
- Needs to take English ability into account, but this cannot be used as a way to suspend services
- Needs a team approach
- Needs observational data
- Needs emotion removed



If we have to decide between SPED and ESL, what do we do?

- Which is more important?
- Which benefits the student more?




Making testing equitable

- Non-verbal assessments
- Native language baselines
- Interviews with parents



Questions



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